

CLAIMS

1. In combination:

2 (a) a container having a storage space with a supply of an
alcoholic beverage,

4 the container having an unopened state and an opened state,
the alcoholic beverage confined to the storage space with the
6 container in the unopened state and capable of being dispensed from the
storage space for consumption with the container in the opened state,

8 the container detectably changeable as an incident of the
container being changed from the unopened state into the opened state in
10 a manner that the container cannot be changed from the opened state
precisely back into the opened state, as a consequence of which it can be
12 determined by inspection that the container was changed from the
unopened state into the opened state; and

14 (b) a closure system that is operatively engageable with the
container and having first and second different states,

16 the closure system operatively engaged with the container and
in the first state preventing dispensing of the alcoholic beverage in the
18 container from the storage space for consumption,

the closure system detectably changeable as an incident of the
20 closure system changing from the first state into the second state in a
manner that the closure system cannot be changed from the second state
22 precisely back into the first state, as a consequence of which it can be
determined by inspection that the closure system was changed from the
24 first state into the second state,

whereby after changing the container from the unopened state
26 into the opened state, the closure system can be operatively engaged with
the container and placed in the first state so that thereafter any dispensing
28 of the alcoholic beverage from the container for consumption requires
changing of the closure system from the first state into the second state
30 which can be detected by inspection of the closure system.

2. The combination according to claim 1 wherein the closure
2 system comprises a case with a receptacle into which the container is
placed with the closure system operatively engaged with the container.

3. The combination according to claim 2 wherein the case has
2 a flexible shape and an opening, the container movable through the opening
with the closure system in the second state, the opening blocked
4 sufficiently with the closure system in the first state that the container
cannot be moved from the receptacle through the opening.

4. The combination according to claim 1 wherein the case
2 comprises hinged case parts which are movable towards and away from
each other to selectively place the closure system in the first and second
4 states.

5. The combination according to claim 1 wherein the container
2 has an opening through which the alcoholic beverage can be introduced
into and dispensed from the storage space and comprises a cork directed
4 into the container opening with the container in the unopened state and
separated from the container with the container in the opened state.

2 6. The combination according to claim 5 wherein the container
has a wall structure defining the opening and the closure system comprises
at least one element that acts between the cork and the wall structure.

2 7. The combination according to claim 6 wherein the at least
one element comprises a moldable material that is molded against the cork
and the wall structure with the closure system in the first state.

2 8. The combination according to claim 7 wherein the moldable
material is ruptured to change the closure system from the first state into
the second state.

2 9. The combination according to claim 1 wherein the container
has a wall structure defining an opening through which the alcoholic
beverage can be introduced into and dispensed from the storage space for
4 consumption and a cap that is repositionable relative to the wall structure
to change the container between the opened and unopened states.

2 10. The combination according to claim 9 wherein the closure system comprises at least one element that acts between the cap and the wall structure.

2 11. The combination according to claim 10 wherein the at least one element comprises a moldable material that is molded against the cap and the wall structure with the closure system in the first state.

2 12. The combination according to claim 11 wherein the moldable material is ruptured to change the closure system from the first state into the second state.

2 13. The combination according to claim 3 wherein the case has first and second wall parts that are connected, each to the other, with the closure system in the first state.

2 14. The combination according to claim 13 wherein the first and second wall parts are bonded to each other with the closure system in the first state.

2 15. The combination according to claim 13 wherein the first
and second wall parts are connected to each other through at least one
flexible element with the closure system in the first state.

2 16. The combination according to claim 13 wherein the first
and second wall parts are connected to each other through a molded
element with the closure system in the first state.

2 17. The combination according to claim 13 wherein the first
and second wall parts are snap-connected to each other with the closure
system in the first state.

2 18. The combination according to claim 13 wherein the first
and second wall parts are connected to each other through a fastener with
the closure system in the first state.

2 19. The combination according to claim 18 wherein the
fastener comprises joinable parts.

20. The combination according to claim 1 wherein the
2 container has an opening through which the alcoholic beverage can be
introduced into and dispensed from the storage space for consumption, and
4 the closure system in the first state blocks the opening to prevent
dispensing of alcoholic beverage in the container from the storage space for
6 consumption.

21. A method of monitoring the dispensing of an alcoholic
2 beverage from a container, said method comprising the steps of:

providing an alcoholic beverage in a storage space defined by
4 a container having an unopened state and an opened state,

the alcoholic beverage confined to the storage space with the
6 container in the unopened state and capable of being dispensed from the
storage space for consumption with the container in the opened state;

8 changing the container from the unopened state into the
opened state and thereby causing the container to be detectably changed
10 in a manner that the container cannot be changed from the opened state
precisely back into the unopened state, as a consequence of which it can
12 be determined by inspection that the container was changed from the
unopened state into the opened state;

14 providing a closure system that is operatively engageable with
the container and having first and second different states;

16 placing the closure system in operative engagement with the
container and in the first state so as to prevent dispensing of the alcoholic
18 beverage in the container from the storage space for consumption; and

 changing the closure system from the first state into the
20 second state to allow the alcoholic beverage to be dispensed from the
storage space for consumption and thereby causing the closure system to
22 be detectably changed in a manner that the closure system cannot be
changed from the second state precisely back into the first state, as a
24 consequence of which it can be determined by inspection that the closure
system was changed from the first state into the second state,

26 whereby after changing the container from the unopened state
into the opened state, the closure system can be operatively engaged with
28 the container and placed in the first state so that thereafter any dispensing
of the alcoholic beverage from the container for consumption requires
30 changing of the closure system from the first state into the second state
which can be detected by inspection of the closure system.